



Army National Guard

Always Ready, Always There



Director of the Army National Guard (Acting) Major General Raymond W. Carpenter

[Biography](#)

[Official Photo](#)

Major General Raymond W. Carpenter was appointed Acting Director, Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau, Washington, District of Columbia on May 29, 2009 by General Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. As Acting Director, he is responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all programs, policies and plans affecting the Army National Guard and its more than 350,000 citizen-soldiers.

General Carpenter began his military service when he enlisted in the South Dakota Army National Guard in May of 1967. He later joined the United States Navy where he attended the Defense Language Institute for 48 weeks to learn Vietnamese. His next assignment was at the Naval Support Activity in Danang, South Vietnam. Upon completion of his service in the United States Navy, he returned to the South Dakota Army National Guard where he was commissioned in 1974. He has commanded at all levels from Lieutenant to Colonel. In 1993, he became the Executive Officer of the 5,000 plus Soldier Task Force Rushmore which was a humanitarian mission in Panama building 27 kilometers of road and rebuilding 10 schools and 14 clinics. In July 1999, General Carpenter was awarded the Silver de Fleury Medal for his work at a national level in support of the Engineer branch. He was a founding member of the Director of the Army National Guard's Engineer Advisory Team and went on to be the Chairman until May 2006. As the Chief of Staff and the Assistant Adjutant General for the South Dakota Army National Guard, he was engaged at the senior leader level in the largest mobilization of the South Dakota National Guard since World War II. General Carpenter served as the Deputy Commanding General for the Maneuver Support Center and had a number of duties including responsibility for overseeing Joint Training at Ft. Leonard Wood.